

"Watchman, What of the Night?"

By Edwin L. Kilbourne

The watchmen on the walls of the bulwarks of God's Kingdom on earth are beholding movements, signs and warnings which indicate that the culminating stratagem in the fulfillment of God's purpose on earth is indeed now being worked out.

These are days when those who are not following "the plan of the ages" and feeling the heart-throbs of the Son of Man could very easily become despondent pessimists. If one were to allow the newspapers and commentators of the day to guide his living and thinking, he could well understand the attitude of those who, in a fit of despondency, take their own lives. Enough is known of the dark picture of our times, so that it is unnecessary again to remind ourselves of all that Satan is doing in the marshalling of his forces and machinations in the final working out of his plans.

Though we are exhorted not to be ignorant of Satan's devices, there is the danger of being overcome with the situation of his making, and by which we are so surrounded that we can easily lose sight of the glorious fact that God is at work, also, and that HIS plan is the one that is to conquer! Furthermore, there is the danger of our losing sight of the momentous fact that you and I not only have a part in His plan, but that its successful outcome is very largely dependent upon us. We do not have any choice in this set fact of God's having made Himself dependent on man's fellowship and cooperation with Him in the fulfillment of His redemptive plan for **every creature in all lands**. But, we do have the choice as to whether or not we will be obedient to His commission and, therefore, be a helping or hindering factor in His heart-purposes toward mankind.

In this day, I feel the necessity of reminding my own heart and exhorting your heart to realize that one of the prime reasons for the sad spiritual picture of the world today is this fact: that we as **individuals** are the ones upon whom lies the load of responsibility for the speedy success of His program that is going to "bring back the King" in His glory and reigning power.

In this day of gigantic organizations and movements, it is easy to imagine that the Church, the missionary societies, and their programs are going to accomplish the fulfillment of His designs as projected at Calvary, empowered at Pentecost and commissioned in His "Go ye." Organizations are absolutely essential to economical procedure in any task, but **your** part in His organization is not fulfilled when you have added your contribution whether it be large or small unless it includes the uttermost part of your consecrated being.

In "all out" warfare, a government is not asking a soldier for his donations, or even for his enthusiastic interest, but for his sacrificial suffering in the leaving of all that he loves, and even to the sacrificing of his life when the call comes. The government likewise demands the limit from all those who cannot go to the

battlefront. It reaches into your home, your savings, your bank account; it rations your food, your clothing, and even restricts your pleasures; it curtails your travels and regulates your rentals and home life when you cannot travel. In fact, your whole life is controlled.

Though God's cause on earth is of far greater moment, and though he, too, has planned that all the material needs be supplied by man and his possessions, and even though man exists and has his possessions by the goodness and grace of God, He **demand**s nothing and no one. Nevertheless, He has made His cause absolutely dependent on us and that which we possess, but He wants what we give to be entirely a love gift of our own free will.

Had God arbitrarily demanded and taken the necessary men and means, there would not be a man, woman or child without the blazing light of Calvary on his or her pathway, and every creature would, in every generation, have had the opportunity of knowing the Christ of redemption, as is his right. But (and let us read it, to our shame) because it has been put on a voluntary basis, no generation since Paul's day has been evangelized, and today a continued accumulated neglect has resulted not only in a world largely unevangelized, but in which heathen population is hourly increasing far faster than we are endeavoring to evangelize it. Strange, indeed, and beyond comprehension, is the reaction of our professed love to Him to whom we owe our all!

The watchman upon the wall looks out and sees the great unfinished task, the still unfulfilled commission, the disobeyed command. He sees the pitiable efforts of the Christian organizations languishing because you and I as individuals are not measuring up to the love we claim for our Lord, Redeemer, and Master.

In our determination to see an unevangelized world told The Story, are we willing to be as He was who possessed all, but became poor? That is **poverty triumphant!** Until we have love such as His which will cause us to reserve nothing for self, but live recklessly in regards to self preservation, the world will never be evangelized, nor will our hands be free of the blood of those who could have known, had we been like our Master.

The man upon the wall is none other than He who stood over against the treasury—He looks to see how much compelling, constraining love we have for Him and His heart-purposes for unreached millions in this midnight hour.

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—The Missionary Standard.

THE ACTIVE PARTNER!

The Spirit came to enter into vital relationship with believers. They were bidden to wait for Him, as soldiers wait for the officer to take command before any operations are undertaken. In the strength **He was to supply**, they were to work. We shall fail, as the early disciples did, apart from Him. We shall succeed just as we cooperate with Him.—J. C. Carlile.

I Was Too Busy

By John Barbour

One Sunday evening not long ago, a drunk staggered into church. He slumped into a seat near the front and promptly went to sleep.

After the service an usher shook him awake. The minister tried to speak to him, but the man was too befuddled to carry on an intelligent conversation.

Although he came back to church several times after that, on each occasion he was drunk. The minister found out where he lived. He also discovered that the stranger usually stayed sober until Friday evening and then lost the weekend in bottle after bottle of beer.

The minister decided that if he were going to speak to the man about his need of a Saviour, it would have to be some night during the week. But there were so many meetings of one kind and another to attend that he did not have time to go.

Then he heard that the man was dead!

He had dozed off while smoking a cigarette. Neighbors had rescued him but he had died of first degree burns.

"You know," the minister said to me, "I was shocked when I heard that the man had died. I kept wondering what might have happened if only I had called.

"I knew then that I was too busy. So I have reorganized my whole program. Things that are not absolutely essential have gone by the board. I am concentrating on the job God called me to do—and that is soul winning."

I remember reading of a Sunday school teacher who sent I-missed-you-at-Sunday-school cards to one of her pupils for five weeks. She fully intended to call on the little girl to see why she was not in class. But she was too busy, so sent the cards instead.

One day she met the girl's mother on the street. The woman's face was strained as she said to the Sunday school teacher:

"You won't need to send any more cards to Mary. She died four weeks ago."

The Sunday school teacher who has no time to make personal home contacts with his scholars is too busy to be a Sunday school teacher!

The preacher whose schedule is so full that he has no time to visit the sick and the troubled is too busy!

The church member who is so busy that he has not time to do more than glance at his Bible or drop on his knees for a couple of minutes is too busy!

A prophet of Israel told his king the parable of a certain man who was instructed to guard a prisoner with utmost care. Somehow, the prisoner escaped. The man could only say:

"While I was busy here and there, he was gone."

God forbid that while you or I are busy at this and that which we think so important, some soul should be gone—into a lost eternity!

Let us examine prayerfully our daily round of activity to find out if we are too busy.—From Christian Life.

Are you praying for the Camps and the Crusade?